



File Code: 2210-1

Date: May 5, 2003

Mr. Joe T. Nelson

Certified Mail 7001 0320 0002 4507 6296

Dear Mr. Nelson

This letter is documentation of the field meeting on April 28, 2003, at the Graham Pasture at which you, Allen Graves, Range Management Specialist, and Ed Holloway, Range Staff were in attendance.

The following items were discussed and will become an amendment to your Grazing Year 2003 AOP/I:

1. Prescribed use levels, on the key species blue grama, were met in some areas, exceeded in other areas and below standards on the hillsides that surround the Graham Pasture.
2. You are removing the livestock out of the Graham Pasture by the end of the week, (May 4, 2003).
3. The Graham Pasture will not receive any grazing use from the period of May 5 until November 2003. Prior to the November scheduled use we will monitor the range to ascertain the forage production from this year's growing season (July through September 30). A subsequent time interval will be estimated based on the forage production, prescribed use level and number of livestock to be grazed.
4. The key area location previously set will need to be adjusted and others installed prior to the next grazing period for the Graham Pasture to adequately address managing grazing patterns, which occurred from November 2002 until May 2003. We will apply the key area concept as described; "when selecting the key area, parts of the pasture remote from water, on steep slopes, or with poor accessibility due to physical barriers should be disregarded. Proper use of these areas will generally result in destructive grazing on most of the pasture" (Holechek, 2001). In the Graham Pasture, the key species is blue grama. A key species is defined, as "a forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species, and because of its importance, must be considered in any management program" (Society for Range Management 1989).
5. You had some ideas on management tools that can gain better livestock distribution in the Graham Pasture such as a cross fence and a livestock driveway to Graham Tank. As I understand there were suggestions of an alternate water location in a part of the pasture that was under-utilized. We can explore these options prior to livestock going back into the Graham Pasture this fall. Any new improvements accomplished will be considered in the capacity estimate as described in no. 3 above.

I have enclosed a map and monitoring report summarizing the use of the Graham pasture this year.



Mr. Nelson, I think it is important to add that I am responsible for the range resource on the Glenwood Ranger District. The application of range management principles and practices many times will allow us to meet vegetation objectives discussed and described in the AOP/I in which you participate in developing. It is important that we work together to offer solutions in meeting these objectives rather than disputing them. You had some very good ideas and input on incorporating management techniques that address solving grazing pattern issues in the Graham Pasture and we will cooperate to the best of our ability in providing assistance to implement them.

These decisions/instructions are subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P.O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Should you have questions, please feel free contact the District.

Sincerely,

LARRY D. RALEY
District Ranger

Literature cited:

Society for Range Management. 1989. *A glossary of terms used in range management*. 3rd ed. Society for Range Management, Denver, CO.

Holecheck, J. L., Rex D. Pieper, and Carlton H. Herbal. 2001. *Range Management Principles and Practices*. 4th ed. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.